



**Draft Minutes of the
Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 29th meeting**

April 20, 2006, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, David Crockett, George Hembree, Pauline Massie, Manuel Ramirez

CAB Members Absent: Netty Buras, Jan Randolph

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Robert L. Brobeck, Karen Ramage, Matt Elsner

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions of the CAB members and the public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 6/23/05 and 11/17/05 CAB Meetings

David Crockett motioned to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2005, and the November 17, 2005 meetings. Manuel Ramirez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the CAB--all were in favor; none opposed.

3. Nominate and Elect CAB Co-Chairs

Gary Abrams opened a discussion on the nomination and election of CAB co-chairs for the next term. Eileen Palese said the CAB could nominate and elect at the same meeting if the CAB members present wanted to do so. Gary Abrams offered a motion to reelect David Crockett as a co-chair; George Hembree seconded the motion. David Crockett motioned to nominate Gary Abrams as co-chair; George Hembree seconded the motion. The CAB voted on the co-chair nominations. All were in favor; none opposed.

4. Vote on Membership Applications: Robert L. Brobeck and Karen Ramage

Gary Abrams opened a discussion on Robert Brobeck's application to the CAB. Mr. Brobeck provided his background and desire to join the CAB as a member of the neighborhood. Karen Ramage also provided information about herself and said she had grown up in the area and had attended Homer Davis Elementary and Flowing Wells High School as a child. She provided her professional bio and said she has a background in science and education. She currently works for Pima County Wastewater Management for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded project.

David Crockett motioned to elect both of the applicants to the Miracle Mile CAB. Manuel Ramirez seconded the motion. The CAB voted. All were in favor; none opposed. The two new CAB members joined the table and were provided a site notebook by Eileen Palese.

5. Site Investigation Update + Q&A

Matt Doolen said he would be glad to meet with the new members to brief them on the site. He began a site update by reporting on a groundwater sampling event which took place in October 2005. He said the same wells were again sampled just last week, but he did not have the results available yet. He said sampling now takes place two times a year instead of four times a year, but this is sufficient to provide the needed data.

He displayed graphs showing the history of TCE concentrations found over the past eleven years of sampling. He said ADEQ has continued to see most of the concentrations of contaminants in the monitor wells decrease over time. Several monitor wells have showed slight increases. He explained that anything above 5 parts per billion is not safe for drinking.

He presented a graph showing a plume map of the TCE concentrations. He said that the greatest concentrations are still in the area of Roger and Romero Roads. He pointed out the direction of the groundwater flow. He said that depending upon the level of pumping by the Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) for their production wells, it is possible to see a shift in how the groundwater flows. For this reason, FWID stopped using these wells last January to prevent pulling contamination toward the production wells. He said one of the newer monitor wells, IRA-24, initially did not show any TCE contamination, but during the last sampling, a slight amount was detected. He explained that the depth to the regional aquifer is approximately 165-175 feet deep. The shallow aquifer is approximately 80 feet down, but it is not used for drinking water.

He then showed a chromium base map on a graph and explained that groundwater is only contaminated by chromium in a very small area of the site, and has only been detected in monitor wells, not in drinking water production wells.

He said the ADEQ is now compiling the Land and Water Use Study which is an inventory of wells in the area. This report, which becomes part of the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report, is necessary to be certain that the chosen Remedial Objectives will satisfy the needs of well owners in the area.

One well on residential property, located at La Osa Drive, needed to be addressed because he was concerned that the well could ultimately be affected by the groundwater contamination. He said the woman living in the home was not using the well for drinking water but was having to carry in bottled water. He said ADEQ had to make a decision about this situation. He said ADEQ did not want her or future owners of the home to drink contaminated water. The options were to monitor her well every six months, or to continue to monitor IRA-24 and when the concentrations got higher, warn the resident, but ADEQ decided to assist her in getting the household hooked up to water from FWID and to abandon this very old well. A shed had to be demolished to do this work, so the resident will be provided a new shed on her property. The work will take place in three stages and he said he hopes to have the job completed by the middle part of June. He said the property owner was very cooperative and pleased about this help from ADEQ.

Matt Doolen said that the characterization of the soil and the groundwater has been finished, which means the draft RI is close to complete. He said he must first finish the Land and Water Use Study, after input is received from property owners. He is hoping that the completed document will be finished by August. All of the work done over the years will be contained in this large document. He said it will be put out for public comment, and then they will move into the Remedial Objectives part of the process, and then the Feasibility Study.

6. Flowing Wells Irrigation District Update + Q&A – David Crockett, Superintendent

David Crockett said that FWID is partnering with ADEQ to build a treatment plant at Roger and Pomona well site to treat arsenic and TCE in the drinking water. ADEQ is paying for the TCE portion and FWID for the arsenic portion of the system. He explained the construction plans and said the vessels have been ordered. Construction should begin in May—plans are to have the system operational sometime in August.

7. Call to the Public

No one wished to comment.

8. Continuation of CAB Vision Statement Discussion

The CAB decided to hold this agenda item until the next meeting.

9. CAB Membership Recruitment Discussion

Gary Abrams outlined the history of the CAB's efforts to encourage membership in the CAB. The CAB discussed possible ways to increase participation, especially when public input is needed from the community during milestones. Karen Ramage asked if information could be sent though FWID bills to customers. David Crockett said that it might be difficult to do this. Eileen Palese said that FWID had previously offered their mailing list so that a letter could be sent to interest people in the upcoming Remedial Objectives public meeting.

Matt Doolen provided a brief overview of the work that has been done leading up to finalizing the RI. Eileen Palese said that ADEQ has a revised fact sheet, but it has not been mailed to the entire community. Plans were to wait until the RI was completed and to send the fact sheet with the letter in a mailing to the community. She outlined some of the past community outreach efforts. Gary Abrams explained that the CAB has felt it better to wait until the RI is

complete because of the slow process to complete the investigation, but at that time, more discussion will take place about cleanup options. The CAB discussed the makeup of the community, and expressed how they have found it difficult to interest people in the contamination issues.

10. Other Administrative Business

Eileen Palese had no other business to report.

11. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2006, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, or email at palese.eileen@azdeq.gov, for meeting information and proposed agenda.

12. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.

Minutes prepared by: Eileen Palese 8/29/06
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